29th October 1935]

Propaganda for expansion of sugarcane cultivation in South Kanara.

* 256 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in view of the reply to question No. 143 (*c*) given on the 22nd October 1934, sugarcane has been substituted for paddy in any areas in South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore and Salem districts;

(*b*) if so, what the acreage is of such areas in each district;

(*c*) what the extent is of land under sugarcane cultivation within 10 miles of Mangalore and within 10 miles of Udipi, in South Kanara district;

(*d*) whether the Agricultural Department has ascertained the possibilities of increasing the area under sugarcane cultivation in these two areas, and has done any propaganda work, if there are such possibilities, to increase the area under sugarcane cultivation;

(*e*) what the varieties are of sugarcanes now being cultivated in South Kanara;

(*f*) whether attempts have been made to introduce such varieties as Co. 213, Co. 351 and M.A. 21; and

(*g*) if so, whether they have been successful?

A.—(*a*) Some cultivators have increased the area under sugarcane to a small extent during the current year in South Kanara. In Malabar sugarcane is a minor crop, but during the current year more ryots have planted sugarcane in small plots. Sugarcane has not been substituted for paddy either in Coimbatore or in Salem district.

(*b*) The acreage in South Kanara and Malabar districts is as shown below:—

South Kanara.

Area under sugarcane.

1934 Actual acres.	1935 Estimated acres.
3,720	4,000

Malabar.

Area under sugarcane.

1934 Actual acres.	1935 Estimated acres.
20	40

About 280 acres of paddy land in South Kanara and 20 acres in Malabar have been newly brought under sugarcane. In Coimbatore and Salem districts there has been no such substitution.

(*c*) The area under sugarcane within 10 miles of Mangalore is estimated to be about 800 acres. Within 10 miles of Udipi it is estimated to be about 600 acres.

(*d*) Yes. If sugarcane pays better than paddy, the area under sugarcane will increase. It is possible to increase the area under sugarcane. The Agricultural department has this point in view.

(*e*) Red Mauritius and Fiji B varieties introduced by the department are being cultivated.

(*f*) Yes. Co. 213 is under district trial in South Kanara. Some twenty varieties including Co. 351 are under trial at the Taliparamba Research station, to test their suitability to the West Coast conditions. Attempts have been made to introduce better varieties of sugarcane both in Coimbatore and Salem districts. Of the three varieties referred to, only Co. 213 has been introduced in Coimbatore and Salem districts. The present area under Co. 213 is about 600 acres in the two districts.

(*g*) More time is required to give a definite opinion about these varieties, in Malabar and South Kanara. In Coimbatore and Salem districts the introduction of Co. 213 has been successful.

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"May I ask what propaganda work has been done by the Agricultural Department to advocate the substitution of sugarcane for paddy and otherwise foster the growth of sugarcane?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"As far as I can answer that question now, Sir, I may say that we are merely advising the ryots to increase the cultivation of sugarcane."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know if the Government think that they will succeed in their attempt to have sugarcane substituted for paddy as a crop if they continue to take sugarcane as a dufassal crop?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I am afraid I cannot answer that question."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Otherwise what do the Government mean by saying that they are making propaganda with regard to the increased cultivation of sugarcane, if they do not facilitate growing of sugarcane by reducing the tax on it?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"That is a matter for my Hon. Friend the Revenue Member."

Damage to coconut trees by the leaf pest.

*257 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what extent of damage to coconut trees has been caused by the leaf pest during the last three years in the South Kanara district;

(*b*) whether the Government called for information as to whether the ryots have realized the advantages of the methods adopted by the